

Preface and Acknowledgments

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Charleston Conference

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Preface and Acknowledgments

“What’s Past Is Prologue” was the theme of the 2017 Charleston Conference which took place in Charleston, South Carolina, on Monday, November 6 through Friday, November 10, 2017, with over 1,800 participants. The far-ranging, diverse program, which focuses on the purchase and lease of information of all types and in all available formats, is curated by an able team of Charleston Conference directors headed by Beth Bernhardt, Lars Meyer, and Leah Hinds, who have worked long and hard to compile this volume. Thanks are due to Leah, Beth, and Lars, and to all the Charleston Conference directors who helped in assuring timely and professionally peer-reviewed submissions. Thanks are also due to the Purdue University Press team: Katherine Purple, Editorial, Design, and Production Strategic Manager; Bryan Shaffer, Sales and Marketing Strategic Manager; Nina Collins, Scholarly Publishing Specialist; Liza Hagerman, Assistant Production Editor; and many others behind the scenes. Last but not least, many thanks to all the authors and presenters of the amazing group of papers in this volume!

In 2017, the Charleston Conference included twelve preconferences covering strategic decision making, an acquisitions bootcamp, the future of the academic book, understanding the library market, legal issues in libraries, developing a collection development allocation formula, e-resource management, sharing and discovery, publisher and library cooperation, negotiating with vendors, user perspectives, and practices for past trends and future predictions. There was also a symposium focused on the Charlotte Initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation.

Plenary and Neapolitan sessions; several hundred concurrent sessions; and lively lunch discussions, PechaKucha-like shotgun “shorts,” and poster sessions spiced up the offerings. The popular Neapolitan format continues into future conferences, allowing three plenary-level speakers to present in large rooms during the same time slot. Several important topics in 2017 included: publication ethics, evaluating user metrics, preprints, IRs and the version of record, public access compliance, open access monographs, and unlocking your classic books for new generations. The conference directors also continued Charleston Premiers, moving them to Thursday morning. Trey Shelton from the University of Florida

ran the Premiers which were refereed and allowed companies to make 5-minute presentations about new and emerging products.

The Charleston Conference has a plethora of additional offerings, including Juried Product Development Forums for publishers or vendors who want to get feedback from librarians about new or emerging products, Dine Around dinners on Thursday night at some of Charleston’s well-known restaurants, a Gala Reception on Thursday evening at the Charleston Aquarium, the Vicky Speck ABC-CLIO Leadership Award, and the Cynthia Graham Hurd Memorial Scholarship Award.

Since the Gaillard Center opening in 2015, the Conference has been able to schedule the use of the performance hall, ballrooms, and salons. The Gaillard can accommodate larger groups than our other venues, and provided a more formal feel to the Conference than in the past. The Conference continues to schedule sessions in the Francis Marion Hotel and the Marriot Courtyard as well as the Embassy Suites.

The 2017 lead keynote presentation (“21st Century Academic Library: The Promise, the Plan, a Response”) was given by the vivacious Loretta Parham of the Atlanta University Center at the Robert W. Woodruff Library. For the next brief plenary, Jim O’Donnell of Arizona State University updated his proposal of “The Future of Print in Open Stacks.” We were then treated to technologist Georgios Papadopoulos’s discussion of “Technology and Platforms: What’s on the Horizon.”

The second Thursday morning plenary introduced robots and artificial intelligence: “All the Robots Are Coming! The Promise and the Peril of AI.” The Charleston Conference Fast Pitch competition was the last plenary session on Thursday afternoon. Fast Pitch competitions, modeled on the TV show Shark Tank, allow librarians and publishers to pitch innovative ideas to the audience and judges.

The Friday keynote brought us the inspiring Brewster Kahle, who outlined the beginning of the Internet Archive and the Open Library Project. Kahle encouraged us all to donate our unwanted books to the Internet archive rather than discard them.

As noted, the main Conference dates have changed from Thursday and Friday to Wednesday and Thursday. Fully 80% of our attendees like this change!

The half-day Friday closing session held in the Francis Marion Hotel included Ann Okerson's popular "Long Arm of the Law" session with Bill Hannay (Schiff Hardin LLP) and Ruth Okediji (Harvard Law School). Next we had another round of Neapolitan sessions, and heard about predatory publishing and the need for librarians and publishers to inform authors about it, streamline access to content, and reinvent knowledge discovery for user needs across the campus. This was followed by three concurrent Innovation sessions, which feature lightning round presentations on new and innovative projects and case studies.

The Concurrent sessions, Lively Lunches, Poster sessions, Shotgun sessions, and the like that were submitted and refereed by the editors are grouped into ten categories in this volume: Plenary Sessions, Budget/Fundraising/Allocation Formulas, Collection Development, Analytics, Up & Comers, Library Services, End Users/Use Statistics, Management/Leadership, Scholarly Communication, and Technology and Trends.

Many new ideas and innovations are implemented and shared at the Charleston Conferences!

Reports of many of the plenary sessions and concurrent sessions are included in this volume, many transcribed ably by Caroline Goldsmith. Archives of many of the papers are also loaded online at the Conference website: www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/

And, of course, the city of Charleston was as beautiful and vibrant as ever!

The next Charleston Conference will be held November 5–9, 2018, with the theme inspired by Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Oh Wind, if Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" There will be several new offerings, many preconferences, and Charleston seminars as librarians, publishers, vendors, aggregators, and consultants from all over the world explore important changes within the industry that impact the way in which information is leased, acquired, and made available. Charleston Conference information will be updated regularly. For archives and further information, see <http://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com/>

See you in Charleston in November!

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